

CAPITAL cannot keep it workers employed. Wh it wants them it wa them bad; and wher does not want them, they go and starve.

AMERICAN SOCIALIST

THE solution of the unemployment problem offered by all the old political parties was summed up in two words by former President Taft—"GOD KNOWS."

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HOW TO RELIEVE THE UNEMPLOYED—THE ONE SURE WAY

FEW TELL THE TRUTH

By JAMES H. MAURER
THE CAUSE of unemployment, or industrial panics, is a subject that concerns everybody, yet few understand. Much is said to enlighten or to deceive the public on the causes of the present panic.
Few, however, possess the knowledge or the courage to tell the truth. The present depression is world-wide; rent, interest and profit are responsible for the distress. All other factors are but details of these three principal causes.
For the past year or more every industrial center has had its increasing army of unemployed, millions of able-bodied men and women begin for an opportunity to work. Even during the so-called prosperous times we have many who are denied the right to work.
And why? I might answer this question, as it has been answered a million times by the beneficiaries and the hired defenders of the system who are responsible for it, and by doing so be called a safe and sane labor leader.

SUMMARY OF CAUSES.
I SHALL, however, try to explain a few of the real causes. First and primarily is the criminal exploitation of the workers. No matter how much wealth the toilers create, their share is invariably as little as the competitive condition of the labor market will allow.
The workers, unless protected by powerful unions, sell their labor power at a price fixed by the employers and the price of the commodity which they produce, and later may purchase, is also fixed by the employers.
And the difference in price between that which the workers receive as wages and what the product sells at is profit; and this profit is the bone of contention among an ever-increasing horde of parasites. We hear much about a living wage for the workman, but not a word about a living profit for the master.
Suppose the profit could only be enough to keep the master alive and in working condition, and that the wives and children of the masters, like those of the workers, had to become breadwinners.
This thought may sound harsh, even cruel, but the fact remains that this is what our masters mean when they speak of a living wage for the workers. And if the producers of all wealth are to be content with a living wage, which unfortunately, millions are not getting, then what, in your opinion, do you really think the nonproducers are entitled to? But, say the profit takers:

"FAIR RETURN FOR MONEY."
"WE are surely entitled to a fair return for our money when we invest it."
Fortunes accumulated by rent, interest or profit, represent unpaid wages, special privilege and extortion, and in either case represents wealth that rightfully belongs to those who created it, or to society as a whole. Every dollar represented in industry was earned by labor.
Every cent that paid for the material and labor came out of unpaid labor. Producers of wealth created the surplus, and the nonproducers own it. The harder we work, the poorer we get, and the larger the army of unemployed. Another factor that adds no small share to the unemployed problem, is the mania for efficiency and economy that has swept over the country during the past dozen years.
Do not understand me as opposing efficiency and economy, because I believe in both if it benefits society as a whole or at least the greater majority, who are the wealth producers.
This efficiency would do under a sane and just system of production. Under our present system, however, efficiency and economy means larger profits for the employer, and speeding up and working beyond the endurance point to the employer, cutting down the time and cost of production and turning many thousands over to join the army of the unemployed.
Efficiency and economy in production and transportation, has not reduced the price of a single commodity, but by the very nature of capitalism it must and does increase the price.

SOME INVENTIONS CURSE.
INVENTIONS are also responsible for many jobless. I do not wish to be understood as being opposed to inventions and progress, but I do say that an invention that robs a man of his trade and the right to work, such an invention is a curse and not a blessing. Labor saving machines are constantly being invented and installed, and just as constantly are skilled workers losing their jobs.
No individual or set of individuals should be allowed the private ownership of labor displacing machinery. The modern tools of production and distribution must become the property of all the people and operated in the interest of all, and not as now—in the interest of the few to the detriment of the great majority—then the invention will be a blessing to all, and not as now—a curse to many.
Child labor is another very important factor. Modern inventions make possible the employment of children where little or no skill is necessary, displacing not only the skilled, but unskilled man and woman. Thus we find children regularly employed, while millions of able-bodied men and women are walking the streets.
IN THE 3,000,000 CHILD WORKERS WE NOW HAVE IN THE UNITED STATES WERE PUT BACK TO SCHOOL AND ON THE PLAYGROUND WHEN THEY BELONG, 3,000,000 FATHERS WHO ARE NOW WALKING THE STREETS WOULD HAVE JOBS.

CHILD LABOR WINS—IT'S CHEAP.
MEN and women are not as cheap as children, therefore such an arrangement would make unpayable inroads on profits and the change would be denounced as ungodly, unpatriotic and un-American.
Looking at the subject from another angle, it is claimed by certain statisticians that labor receives as a wage about one-fifth of the wealth that it creates. Whether these figures are any way nearly correct, I do not know, nor do I believe that any one can tell. But I do know that my class creates all wealth, yet owns less than 10 per cent of it, while another class that does not create any wealth, owns the remaining 90 per cent. True, we also received above this enough to keep alive, but this is also true of the nonproducers.
It is, therefore, evident that we are exploited out of the lion's share of the wealth we create, and being in the overwhelming majority we cannot buy back enough of the things we make to keep us employed.

By CARL D. THOMPSON

IF any one really wants to relieve the unemployed there is one way it can be done; one sure, simple way.
It will take time. It will require some brains and nerve. But it can be done. And once it is done the curse of the unemployed will be driven from the land once for all.
There may be ways to help the unemployed, to lighten the burden, to alleviate their sufferings. And all that needs to be done. But our mission above everything else is to put an end to unemployment entirely; to create a social order in which there shall be no unemployed at all.
And here is the program:
(1) Let the nation take over the railroads and use the profits to employ the unemployed. The profits (the net operating income) of the railroads of this nation were \$697,702,775 for 1915 (Twenty-eighth annual report of the Interstate Commerce Commission, Part One, Page 52). In other words \$697,702,775 were taken out of the railroad business of this country—over and above all and every expense, including taxes—and turned into the pockets of the comparatively few owners.
Now, if the nation owned the roads, that \$697,702,775 would be in the national treasury and not in the pockets of the railroad magnates, and if the nation had \$697,702,775 to spend, and really wanted to relieve the distress of the unemployed it could at once put to work 1,346,900 people at anything it found useful and needful and pay them the average wages now received by the workers of America, \$515 per year. Those wages are not enough of course. But it would be better than starving for lack of work.
And at the end of the year the government had paid them in wages and at least \$100,000,000 in addition. For it can now be shown that the average working man produces at least twice as much as he receives in wages. Thus the program we propose would employ over a million men the first year and over 2,000,000 the second.

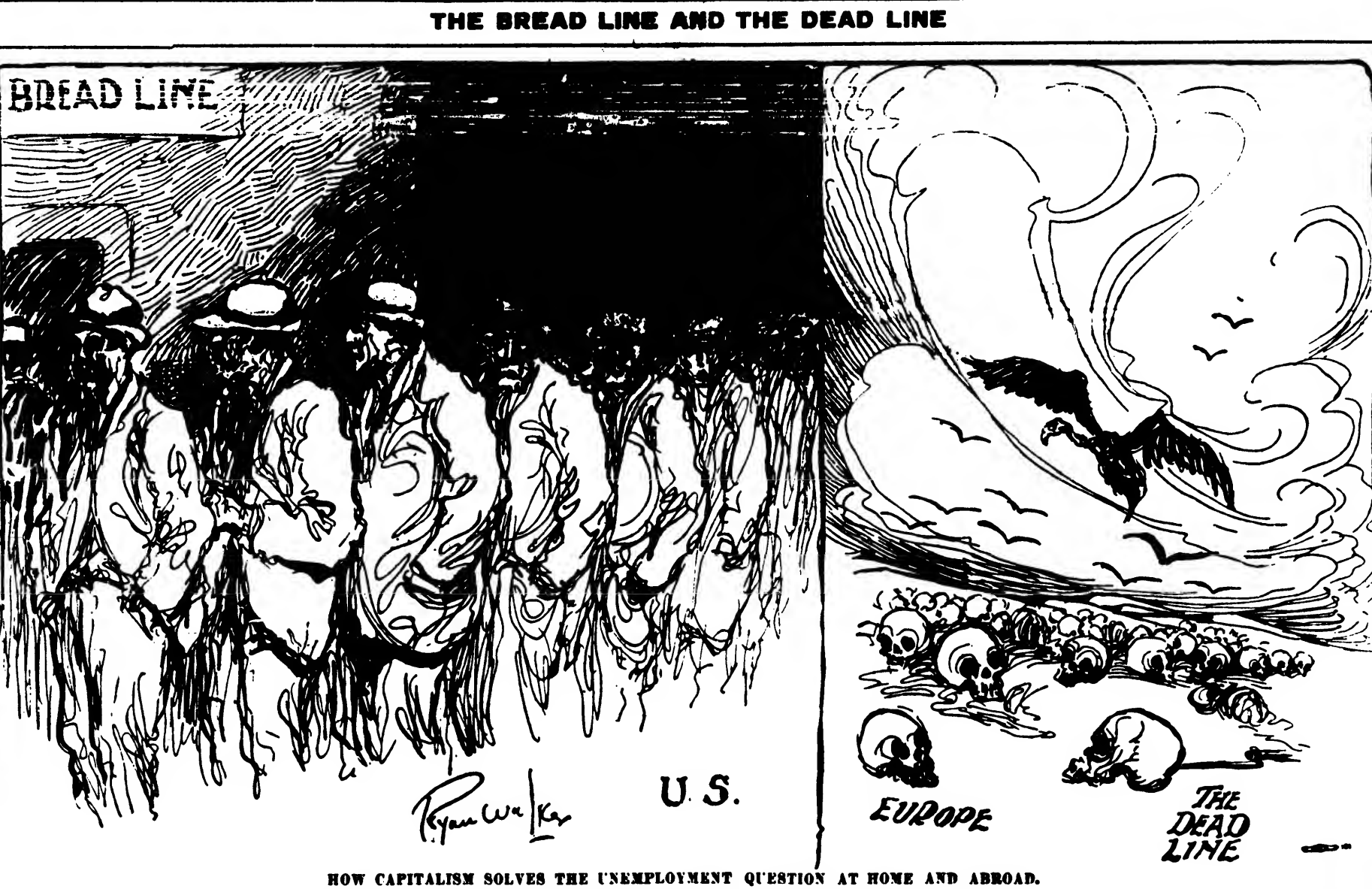
NOW OF COURSE we would not want to use all the profits of a government enterprise like this for employing the unemployed. And we would want to pay better wages and work the employees shorter hours, etc. We are only showing what could be done in order to emphasize the tremendous possibilities for good if we only had the will and the wisdom as a people to apply the Socialist principles.
(2) As a next great step in the program let the nation take over the Steel Trust. Allan L. Benson has shown in his article published in Pearson's (June 1914) that the profits of this trust are over \$454,000,000 per year. If the nation owned this trust it would have that amount over and above all expenses which it could invest in employing the unemployed. That would keep over \$76,000 people at work for a whole year at the average wage. And, as before, at the end of the year these, too, would have created wealth enough to cover their wages for the year and several hundred millions of dollars besides. Thus the second year still more of the unemployed could be put to work. Or, if you please, wages could be raised, the workday shortened and conditions improved.
THUS we could put to work over 2,222,000 of the unemployed by nationalizing these two industries alone.
(3) Next suppose the nation to take over the Standard Oil business. Henry H. Klein in his "Standard Oil for the People" has shown that the profits of this company is \$188,196,000 per year. That would keep another 273,000 at work for a whole year.
(4) Now suppose that the cities of the nation should take over their street car lines. There are 975 different street railway companies in the country. Benson shows that their profits are over \$156,000,000. That amount if properly applied by the cities, according to the plan we have proposed would employ another 359,000 of the unemployed.
Thus the socialization of these four great trusts alone would put nearly 3,000,000 of the unemployed to work. There are more than a thousand trusts of one kind or another. There are at least 300 trusts of considerable size in this country.

IF Socializing four trusts will absorb 3,000,000 of the unemployed, it is clear it is not that socializing all of the trusts would absorb all of the unemployed, and wipe out the problem entirely.
John F. Kennedy, in a careful study of the degree of exploitation in America, estimates that it totals no less than \$10,000,000,000 per year. If these figures are any measure of the situation then here is a vast sum which, if turned to the task of employing the unemployed as outlined above, would put every one of the unemployed to work and leave the nation looking for more.
And all this does not take into account the many measures which are being constantly urged by the Socialists. For example, there are 2,000,000 children under 16 years of age now employed in gainful occupations according to the last census reports. These should be taken out of industry and their places given to adults. This would absorb another 2,000,000 of the unemployed.
Again, the establishment of a universal eight-hour day, or even shorter, would increase the demand for labor and thus put more to work. And the change would be a blessing to all concerned.
AND again, under normal conditions, there can be no doubt that a considerable portion of the women now employed in the industrial pursuits would take their places in the homes as wives and mothers, and thus give places to many now unemployed.
Thus the way is clear. We have but one thing to do;— wage war upon capitalism. And with every victory won, every measure gained, every advance that is made, the volume of the unemployed will be diminished. WE HAVE BUT TO PUSH THIS PROGRAM PERSISTENTLY AND TO ITS LOGICAL CONCLUSION AND THE PROBLEM IS SOLVED.

MENTION IT NOW!

By ROBERT HUNTER
THERE ARE at least six million who are unemployed at the present time in the United States.
We are in the midst of Winter and these millions must have food, clothing and shelter.
Nearly everybody is now discussing how they can obtain food, clothing and shelter.
Committees are being formed in all the large cities to deal with the problem. Unhappily they seem to believe that to talk and to count and to recount the number without work will somehow feed the hungry and the starving.
Six million are a whole lot of people, and six million votes would be enough to control many States and to elect many Congressmen.
As the Socialists polled only one million votes in 1912 it is evident that several millions of those at present unemployed voted for the Democrats or the Republicans.
It would seem to be up to the Republicans and Democrats, therefore, to look after their own.
A few months ago politicians were claiming that they meant to represent the working millions. Both Democrats and Republicans promised great prosperity if only they were elected to office.
WELL, THEY are now in office, and there is no prosperity. Moreover, there are no Democrats or Republicans who are offering any definite solution for the immense and pressing problem of unemployment.
When the railroads a few months ago declared that they were on the verge of bankruptcy Congress allowed them to go into the pockets of the American public and get what they needed.
But now when millions of voters announce that they are starving Congress and the State Governments are deaf to their appeals.
This is the time for these millions of Democratic and Republican unemployed workmen to form campaign clubs and to conduct torch-light processions.
A few months ago they were organized into campaign clubs. Why not reorganize these clubs?
Let the unemployed Democrats march up to the various Democratic headquarters over the country and demand attention.
Let the Republican unemployed assemble before "their" headquarters, and let all the trade-union Democrats and Republicans join the congregations and speak for their fellow-workers.
Let the Socialists, instead of organizing joint meetings of the unemployed, assist in organizing the Democratic and Republican unemployed to interview the Democratic and Republican bosses.
Let them ask the Republican and Democratic bosses just what program they have worked out to help starving America.

IN THE FEW places where Socialists have been elected a fight will be made for the unemployed. Every Socialist from Meyer London down to the meanest municipal official feels that his first and greatest duty at the present time is to the unemployed.
But the Democrats and Republicans now want to forget the unemployed. They want to get out of their way and to have some peace of mind to think about other things.
In my opinion the Socialists and the Trade Unions should make it their business to see that no political boss in America is allowed for the next few months to think of anything else but the unemployed.
Let the Trade Unions hold great mass meetings and invite the political bosses to come to their meetings and tell what they are going to do now, today, for the unemployed.
The matter is urgent. People are starving and there is no time to put it off.
Insist that the bosses come personally and not send their spell binders, their lawyers and their office holding lackeys. Insist that they cut out the ordinary and make a plain statement of their program to help the now starving unemployed.
Let the Socialist, Trade Unionist, Democratic and Republican workless assemble. Let the men in the meeting who voted for the Democratic or Republican boss stand up and ask him to give an accounting.
There is little use in weeping and wailing. The winds and elements have no mercy. The landlords, the coal barons, the beef trust, the wheat speculators are as heartless as winter blasts and as merciless as the natural elements.
The bosses were around only a few months ago begging for the votes of the workers. Now is the moment, the supreme, critical moment, to demand of them an accounting.
THE RAILROADS GOT THEIRS. WHY SHOULD YOU HOLD BACK? DON'T LAUGH. DIDN'T YOU VOTE FOR THEM? MENTION IT NOW!



HOW CAPITALISM SOLVES THE UNEMPLOYMENT QUESTION AT HOME AND ABROAD.

HERE ARE THE battlefronts in the overwhelming tragedies now sweeping two continents—the Dead Line in Europe and the Bread Line in America.
There are six million soldiers fighting in Europe. There are six million unemployed in America.
In Europe the deadly touch of shot or shell suddenly ends all. The nations locked in this huge death grapple, are exerting their best efforts to care for the maimed and the sick. These may recover to become again the victims of this feast of blood.
In America the hunger line staggers on. Strong men, women and children, crying for work, are denied it. Hunger saps their strength. They wither. Disease attacks them. Death is long in coming. The national government at Washington turns a deaf ear. State governments do not care. The cities give no heed. They are in the grip of the master class.
Note the wrecks in human form portrayed by the artist in his Bread Line. Who would not prefer the Dead Line. This is all capitalism has to offer humanity in the year 1915 A. D.

Nor can the nonproducers, who are in the minority, do so. I admit, however, that in all ages the social drones proved themselves very efficient consumers. These well fed and finely groomed men and women live in magnificent splendor, consume the best there is on earth, and are cared for by servants as if they were invalids or infants.
They no longer, like those whose fortunes they inherited, even manage their own affairs. The colleges and universities train men and women to do this work for them; their women do not even propagate; they prefer fondling no-account dogs to children.
And these people have the audacity to call themselves the upper or better class, while, in fact, they are nothing more than a useless, idle, parasitical class who hang like millstones around labor's neck.

"STARVE WAR—FEED AMERICA"
"COMES UP IN WISCONSIN."
The American Socialist's "Starve War—Feed America" resolutions have been introduced into the Wisconsin state legislature by Socialist Assemblyman Vint, Milwaukee, and a big fight is predicted as a result in the assembly and senate.
Some of the farmer members of the legislature, who declare they are now getting big prices for their foodstuffs, say they will vigorously oppose the resolutions.

No. 119 If No. 120 appears on your address label, your subscription expires next week. Do not fail to renew.

BLIND TO THEIR OWN WELFARE.
THE strangest part of it all is that the industrial masters seem blind to their own future economic welfare. By cutting down the consuming power (Continued on Page Three.)

THE PROCESSION HAS STARTED

THE HEADS of the departments at the Socialist Party National Office have been first to respond to the call to wipe out the \$5,000 deficit and give the circulation of The American Socialist another big boost.
Each contributes his dollar with a few cheerful words.
WALTER LANSFERSIEK, National Executive Secretary, says: "The workers' press must live and grow. It is the voice of Labor, ever more threatening to capitalism, ever more hope-giving to those who toil. Here is my dollar, for 4 sub-cards."
J. L. ENGLISH, Editor, The American Socialist, says: "To have a strong Socialist movement we must have a strong Socialist press. Each new subscription to our party paper is a fresh blow at the chains of the capitalist system that shackle us. The Socialist Party of America will join in this campaign to boost the circulation of The American Socialist by 10,000 and to wipe out the \$5,000 party debt. Here is my dollar."
RALPH KORNIGOLD, Manager of the Literature Department and Circulation Manager of The American Socialist, says: "I believe we will succeed in this campaign to wipe out the National Office debt. Besides, the 20,000 new subscribers will be a tremendous boost to our paper. Here is my dollar for four sub-cards. I'll either sell them or send the paper free of charge to four Henry Dubbs."
CARL D. THOMPSON, Director of the Information Department, says: "This 20,000 in red looks good to me. Now let's make it 100,000. Here's my one spot. Go after the other 8,000."
WINNIE E. BRANNATTETTER, Director of the Woman's Department, says: "Here's my dollar, others will follow as rapidly as I dispose of these cards. For the first time we have a paper which I feel free to place in the hands of any sympathetic woman. THE AMERICAN SOCIALIST rings true to our highest ideals and is free of all objectionable editorial and advertising matter."
J. A. ROGERS, Director of the Young People's Department, says: "Take that mill stone off our necks! Wipe out that debt. Big work is before us. With no debt we can do things impossible now. I am sure the young people are with you. Here's my dollar."
Comrades we are dead in earnest about this campaign. We want you to fall in line, and give of your best.
Send S. S. 101 to the National Office, 100 N. Dearborn St., CHICAGO.
USE THE VOLUNTEER SUB BLANK ON PAGE 3

OUR FIGHT FOR UNEMPLOYED

WHEN Victor L. Berger was in congress, 1910-12, he did all he could, with 291 old party congressmen against him, to solve the great problem of unemployment.
The fight was a long and hard one. The Socialist Party of America, led by Meyer London when he entered congress, was the only Socialist delegation in congress who took the Socialist demand for the end of the unemployment problem seriously.
The features of Berger's bill to solve the question of unemployment were as follows: (a) The United States government is to issue and loan money to county, city and town governments enabling them to inaugurate public improvements. (b) These loans are to pay interest at one-half per cent per annum, and shall be repaid in 20 equal annual installments of \$2,000,000 to be set apart by special bonds issued by local governments. (c) Upon this basis the secretary of the treasury shall issue a special currency to be known as "Public Improvements Notes" to be loaned to the local governments. Every year the secretary shall withdraw from circulation and destroy an amount of this currency equal to the value of the bonds redeemed. (d) And finally the 101 provided that the work undertaken under these loans shall be carried out with an eight-hour workday and at not less than the prevailing union rate of wages.

**THIS COLUMN RECORDS
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make money, but are not going to make more."—Edwin Markham.

AMERICAN SOCIALIST 4 YEARS 2:00

THERE

March Will Jar New York.

A PUNCH OF
YED! I WILL
AND GIVE
GOOD
ADVICE!

UNEMPLOYMENT PROTEST

NAME OF CONGRESSMAN OF DISTRICT

Six million unemployed in United States should relieve situation immediately by building irrigation and reforestation projects, opening new industries.

SIGN

NAME OF CONGRESSMAN OF DISTRICT IN WHICH MEETING IS HELD:
Six million unemployed in United States constitutes national menace. Government should relieve situation immediately by building more roads, pushing work on reclamation, irrigation and reforestation projects, opening mines, and inaugurating public enterprises and industries.

SIGNED BY CHAIRMAN OF MASS MEETING.

CAPITALISM TURNS ITSELF INSIDE OUT

By CHESTER M. WRIGHT.

BLAME THE BOSS FOR YOU! NO OUR MONEY ON

NO, I AIN'T GOT NO

?

their political movement.

TELEGRAM TO CONGRESS

FOODSTUFFS. has postponed a declaration of withdrawal from the executive committee of the Socialist group in the Reichstag.

RALPH KORNGOLD
Manager

EMIL SEIDEL'S DATES.
Saturday 1902, Irwin, Pa.

... declares. "We are no longer making steps, but strides, in the direction of Socialism."

(Our Washington Letter)

FREE TO YOU!

There are some Socialists and Socialist sympathisers in the United States that are not yet aware of the

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Henry Dubb Leads

**Unemployed
And Gets
A Job On A
Rock Pile**

By
Ryan Walker

